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LABOR INFORMATION BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 1936

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BORIS STERN, Editor

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How Workers in Large Cities Spend their Incomes

By
Faith Williams
Bureau of Labor Statistics

American wage earners and lower-salaried clerical workers in large cities differ very little on the average in the way they spend their annual incomes. There are, however, some significant differences in their average expenditures from city to city. These are due to the fact that there are differences in the costs of the items purchased, variations in size of the family, and variations in family income from city to city. Local customs and State and municipal regulations also affect consumer purchases.

A recently completed survey of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the 1934-35 expenditures by white families in 56 cities in different parts of the country shows that the percentage of the total expenditure going to food declines rapidly with the advance in the economic well-being of the family. The larger cities for which information is now available are: Boston and Springfield, Mass.; Detroit and Grand Rapids, Mich.; Richmond, Va.; Birmingham, Ala.; and New Orleans, La. The proportion spent for clothing, housing, household operation, personal care, and community welfare is approximately the same at the different expenditure levels. The percentage going to furnishings and equipment, transportation, medical care, and gifts and contributions to persons outside of the family increases significantly with the increase in the total expenditure of the family. The percentage spent for education is irregular and depends largely on the number and the age ff the children in each group.

TYPES OF FAMILIES STUDIED

The families studied were carefully selected to represent a cross section of the families of employed white wage earners and lower-salaried clerical workers in the cities included in the survey. Families whose incomes were under $500 a year or who received relief during the year were not included.

The 600 white families studied in Detroit and the 516 families studied in Boston were divided into 6 economic groups. In the lowest level were included those families which spent annually less than $300 per "consumption unit."* At the highest level were placed those which spent $700 or more per consumption unit.

The level of economic well-being of the family was found to depend largely on two

** The economic level of each family has been determined on the basis of its annual expenditures for consumers' goods per "consumption unit." The amount of food, clothing, housing, etc., required by a consumption unit is equivalent to that consumed on the average by an adult male. The women and children of each family have been converted to their equivalent of adult males as consumption units, and each family has been considered as consisting of so many consumption units. This classification was necessary to account for the differences in the number of persons dependent on the family funds, their age, sex, and occupation. Thus, a family of two adults, a father in factory work and a mother at home, and two children, which spends $1,450 for consumers' goods during the year, is classified as consisting of approximately 3.6 consumption units and at a level of expenditure slightly over $400 per unit. Similarly, another family consisting of a father in factory work, a mother at home, a sister in clerical work, and five children, which also spends $1,450 for consumers' goods during the year, is classified as consisting of approximately 7 consumption units at a level of $208 per unit.*

DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURES ON CONSUMERS' GOODS BY WAGE EARNERS AND LOWER-SALARIED CLERICAL WORKERS IN DETROIT

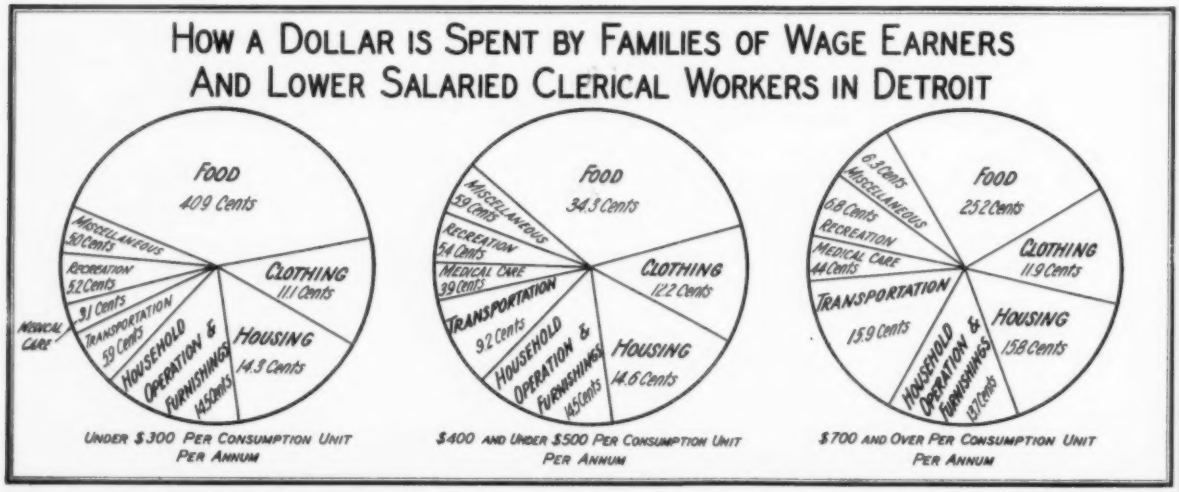
ITEM	Families with annual expenditure per consumption unit of--					
	LESS THAN $300	$300 AND UNDER $400	$400 AND UNDER $500	$500 AND UNDER $600	$600 AND UNDER $700	$700 AND OVER
	Percent	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
Food	40.9	38.5	34.3	31.2	30.4	25.2
Clothing	11.1	12.1	12.2	10.7	12.3	11.9
Housing	14.3	14.6	14.6	16.3	14.5	15.8
Household operation	12.5	11.5	10.7	10.1	10.4	8.7
Furnishing and equipment	2.0	3.1	3.8	4.2	4.3	5.0
Transportation	5.9	2.0	9.2	10.4	11.2	15.9
Personal care	2.0	2.0	2.2	1.9	2.1	1.9
Medical care	3.1	2.9	3.9	4.6	5.7	4.4
Recreation	5.2	5.1	5.4	6.4	5.6	6.8
Education	.8	.6	.8	.4	.6	.4
Vocation	.2	.1	.3	.1	.1	.3
Community welfare	1.1	1.0	.8	1.0	1.0	.8
Gifts and contributions.	.6	.9	1.3	2.1	1.6	2.3
Miscellaneous	.3	.6	.5	.6	.2	.6

major factors: total expenditures of the family and its size. In Boston the 95 families included in the lowest level spent on the average $1,323 during the year 1934-35. This amount had to suffice for the support of the 5 1/3 consumption units which comprised the average family at this level. The 68 families at the highest level spent on the average $1,943 per family per annum. Each of these families consisted of only 2.2 consumption units.

The distribution of the 600 families studied in Detroit was similar. At the lowest level a relatively small income had to serve the needs of a comparatively large family. At the highest level a higher income was distributed among a smaller number of persons. In both cities families with low expenditures had a relatively large number of children. Families with larger incomes generally had fewer children.

FOOD CONSUMPTION

With each advance in the economic well-being of the families studied in the seven large cities, the proportion of the family


How a Dollar is Spent by Families of Wage Earners And Lower Salaried Clerical Workers in Detroit
Food 40.9 Cents
Clothing 11.1 Cents
Housing 14.3 Cents
Household Operation & Furnishings 14.5 Cents
Transportation 5.9 Cents
Medical Care 3.1 Cents
Recreation 5.2 Cents
Miscellaneous 5.0 Cents
Under $300 Per Consumption Unit Per Annum
Food 34.3 Cents
Clothing 12.2 Cents
Housing 14.6 Cents
Household Operation & Furnishings 14.5 Cents
Transportation 9.2 Cents
Medical Care 3.9 Cents
Recreation 5.4 Cents
Miscellaneous 5.9 Cents
$400 and Under $500 Per Consumption Unit Per Annum
Food 25.2 Cents
Clothing 11.9 Cents
Housing 15.8 Cents
Household Operation & Furnishings 13.7 Cents
Transportation 15.9 Cents
Medical Care 4.4 Cents
Recreation 6.8 Cents
Miscellaneous 6.3 Cents
$700 and Over Per Consumption Unit Per Annum

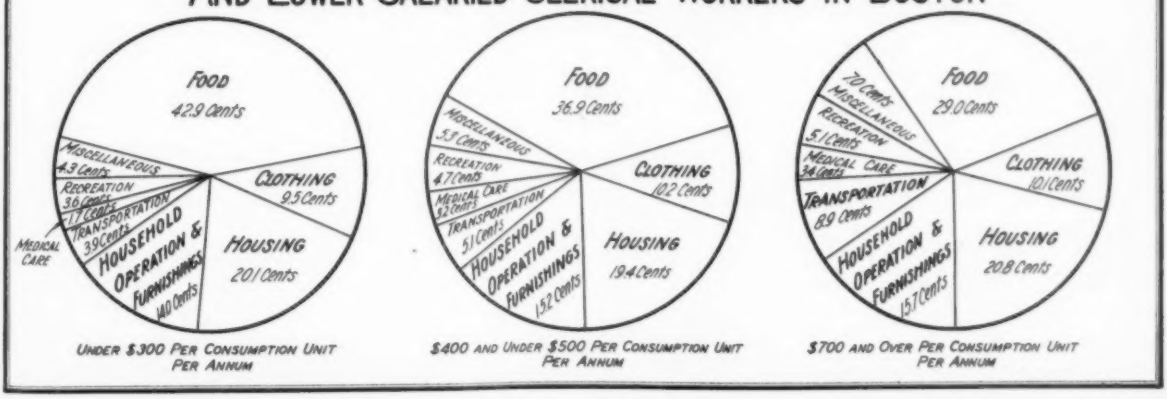
budget spent for food shows a decrease, but food expenditures per member of the family show a striking increase. There are also important shifts in the type of food purchased. The market basket of families at the lowest expenditure levels, especially in the southeastern cities covered by the survey, is heavily weighted with flour and meal and white and sweet potatoes. At the higher levels, per capita consumption of cereal products is irregular and on the average only slightly larger than at the lower levels, but the consumption of fresh vegetables and fresh fruit is more than doubled. The consumption of meat, fish, poultry, and eggs is more than 50 percent greater at the upper levels.

DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURES ON CONSUMERS' GOODS BY WAGE EARNERS AND LOWER-SALARIED CLERICAL WORKERS IN BOSTON

ITEM	Families with annual expenditure per consumption unit of--					
	LESS THAN $300	$300 AND UNDER $400	$400 AND UNDER $500	$500 AND UNDER $600	$600 AND UNDER $700	$700 AND OVER
	Percent	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
Food	42.9	39.0	36.9	33.8	30.8	29.0
Clothing	9.5	9.4	10.2	9.5	10.5	10.1
Housing	20.1	20.5	19.4	20.7	21.0	20.8
Household operation	12.8	13.4	12.6	13.0	12.0	12.0
Furnishing and equipment	1.2	1.9	2.6	3.1	3.4	3.7
Transportation	3.9	4.5	5.1	5.1	7.5	8.9
Personal care	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.7
Medical care	1.7	3.0	3.2	3.8	3.4	3.4
Recreation	3.6	4.0	4.7	4.9	5.2	5.1
Education	.5	.2	.5	.7	.4	.3
Vocation	.2	.3	.3	.2	.4	.5
Community welfare	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.5
Gifts and contributions.	.5	.6	.9	1.6	1.6	2.4
Miscellaneous	.1	.1	.5	.5	.6	.6

In Detroit, families with annual expenditures of less than $300 per consumption unit spend nearly 41 cents out of each dollar for food. Families at the upper level, with yearly expenditures of $700 and over per consumption unit, spend approximately 25 cents of every dollar for food. Similar differences in the proportion of the family budget spent for food are recorded in Boston. Families at the lower level in

How a Dollar is Spent by Families of Wage Earners and Lower Salaried Clerical Workers in Boston


Food 42.9 Cents
Clothing 9.5 Cents
Housing 20.1 Cents
Household Operation & Furnishings 14.0 Cents
Medical Care 3.9 Cents
Transportation 3.9 Cents
Recreation 3.6 Cents
Miscellaneous 4.3 Cents
Under $300 Per Consumption Unit Per Annum
Food 36.9 Cents
Clothing 10.2 Cents
Housing 19.4 Cents
Household Operation & Furnishings 15.2 Cents
Transportation 5.1 Cents
Medical Care 3.2 Cents
Recreation 4.7 Cents
Miscellaneous 5.3 Cents
$400 and Under $500 Per Consumption Unit Per Annum
Food 29.0 Cents
Clothing 10.1 Cents
Housing 20.8 Cents
Household Operation & Furnishings 15.7 Cents
Transportation 8.9 Cents
Medical Care 3.4 Cents
Recreation 5.1 Cents
Miscellaneous 7.0 Cents
$700 and Over Per Consumption Unit Per Annum

that city spend about 43 cents on food, as compared with 29 cents spent by families at the upper level. In New Orleans families which spend less than $400 per consumption unit per year devote slightly more than 41 percent of their budget for food. In Birmingham families at the same economic level devote 36 percent of their total expenditures for food.

HOUSING FACILITIES

Although the average percentage spent for housing by the families studied is about the same for all economic levels, the actual amount spent for housing per family rises considerably with increases in the level of expenditures. The amount spent on housing per person advances even more rapidly than that spent per family, due to the smaller size of family which prevails in the upper levels.

The difference between the housing facilities of the families at the highest and at the lowest levels is very striking in all the seven cities. In Detroit the percentage of renters having inside flush toilets, running hot water, electric light, and gas and electricity in the kitchen increases from 76.6 at the lowest level to 94.1 at the highest. In Boston the increase in families having all of these modern conveniences is from 57.5 percent at the lowest level to 94.1 percent at the highest. In the three southern cities the difference in the proportion of white families having all of these modern facilities ranges from 37 to 71 percent in Richmond, 46 to 81 percent in Birmingham, and 27 to 69 percent in New Orleans.

EXPENDITURES FOR TRANSPORTATION

If any further evidence were needed that American families like "to go places", it is supplied by the results of this investigation. Expenditures for transportation increase more rapidly with advances in the economic well-being of the family than those for any other item in the family budget. However, the averages vary a good deal from city to city, depending on the economic well-being of the workers in the city and on State and municipal regulations governing the ownership and operation of automobiles.

The Boston families devote on the average 5.7 percent of their total expenditures to transportation, as against 10.7 percent spent on transportation by the Detroit families. The relatively low proportion spent for transportation by families in Boston is directly connected with the relatively small percentage of families owning automobiles in this city. Automobile owners in Boston spend approximately $268 per year on transportation, as against $60 per year spent on transportation by nonautomobile owners.

But the proportion of families owning automobiles in Boston constitute only 14.3 percent of the group studied, as against 68.3 percent of the group studied in Detroit. There are several reasons which account for the smaller number of families owning automobiles in Boston, as compared with Detroit. In the first place Boston is an old and densely settled community. The metropolitan Boston area has a population density of nearly 15,600 persons per square mile, as compared with 11,740 persons per square mile in the Detroit area. Parking of automobiles in the streets overnight is not allowed within the city limits of Boston. In Detroit overnight parking is not prohibited. Garage rents in Boston are necessarily expensive because of the high land values in the city, and public liability insurance is also a necessary expense, due to compulsory insurance in effect in Massachusetts since 1928. Michigan, on the other hand, has no compulsory automobile insurance law. As a result average expenditures for automobile insurance of all types by the families studied in Boston are estimated at $54, as compared with $6 for the same type of family in Detroit.

PRODUCTION, EMPLOYMENT AND PAY ROLLS FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1936

The statistics on industrial production are taken from reports of the Federal Reserve Board and the Department of Commerce. The figures on employment and pay rolls are from the records of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

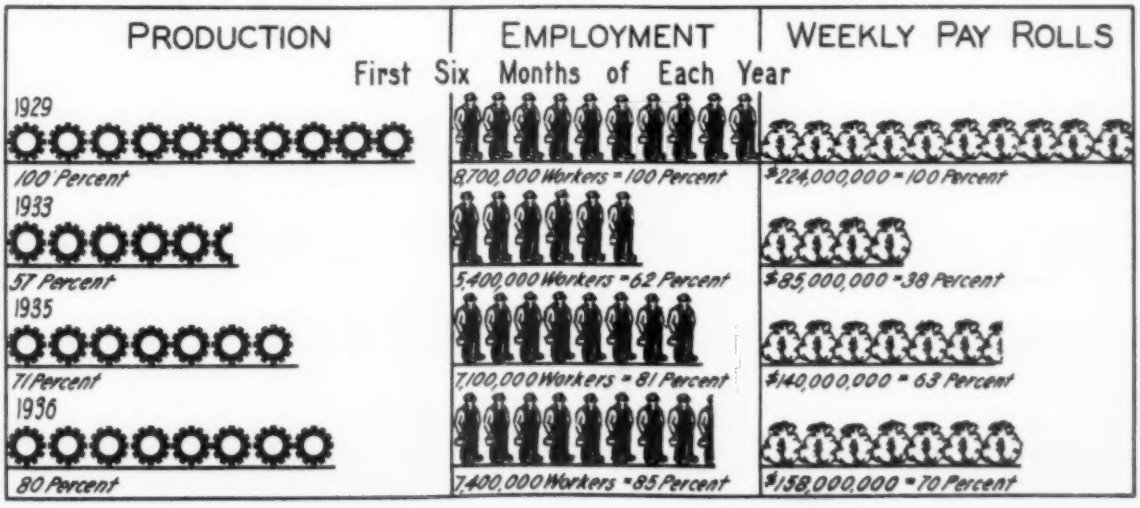
The steady advance in industrial production which marked the last half of 1935 continued during the first 6 months of 1936. Substantial increases in output were recorded in such important industries as steel, automobiles, cotton textiles, and electric light and power. Smaller gains occurred in the manufacture of foodstuffs, boots and shoes, and numerous other products. Railroad freight car loadings were about 9 percent higher than in the first 6 months of 1935.

About 2½ million passenger cars and trucks were assembled during the first 6 months of this year. Factory output of automobiles was larger than at any time since 1929, but it was still 22 percent below the average for the first half of that year. Employment was approximately 7 percent below 1929. Weekly pay rolls averaged about 24 percent less than in 1929.

Output of electric light and power for the first half of 1936 totaled 53.8 billion kilowatt hours -- 6 billion kilowatt hours more than in the similar period of last year. It was 14 percent larger than in the corresponding period of 1929, and was the highest production on record for any 6-month period. Employment and weekly pay rolls in the electric light and power and manufactured gas industries, averaged over the 6 months, were higher than in the preceding year. However, employment was 8 percent and pay rolls 10 percent below their average for the first half of 1929.

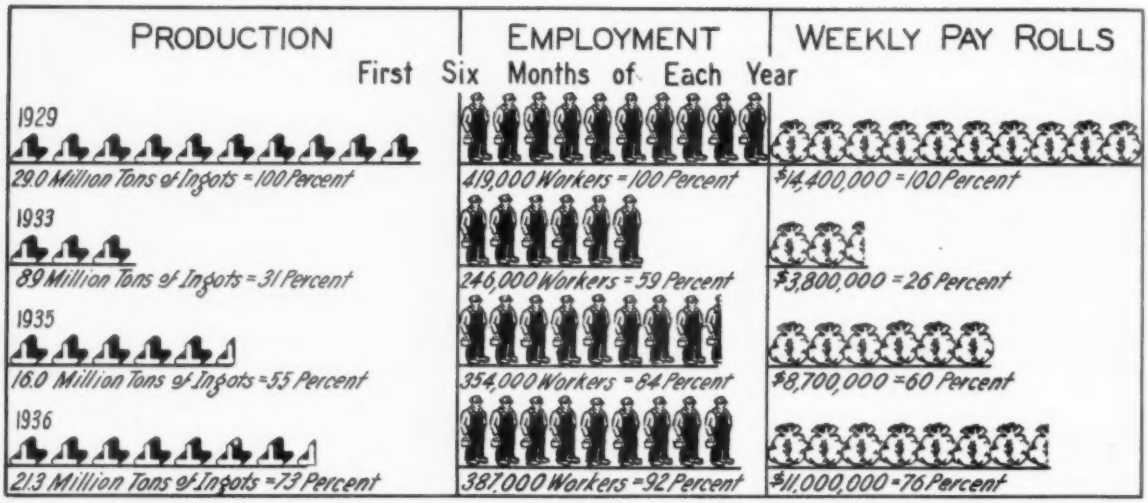
ALL MANUFACTURING

The Federal Reserve Board's unadjusted index of production in manufacturing industries averaged 13 percent higher during the first 6 months of this year, than in the same period a year ago. Factory output was about 40 percent higher in 1936 than in 1933. Employment in manufacturing establishments, averaged over the 6-month period, was 4 percent higher than in 1935. It was more than one-third higher than in the first half of 1933. Weekly pay rolls for the first 6 months of 1936 averaged 13 percent higher than in 1935 and 85 percent higher than in the same period of 1933.



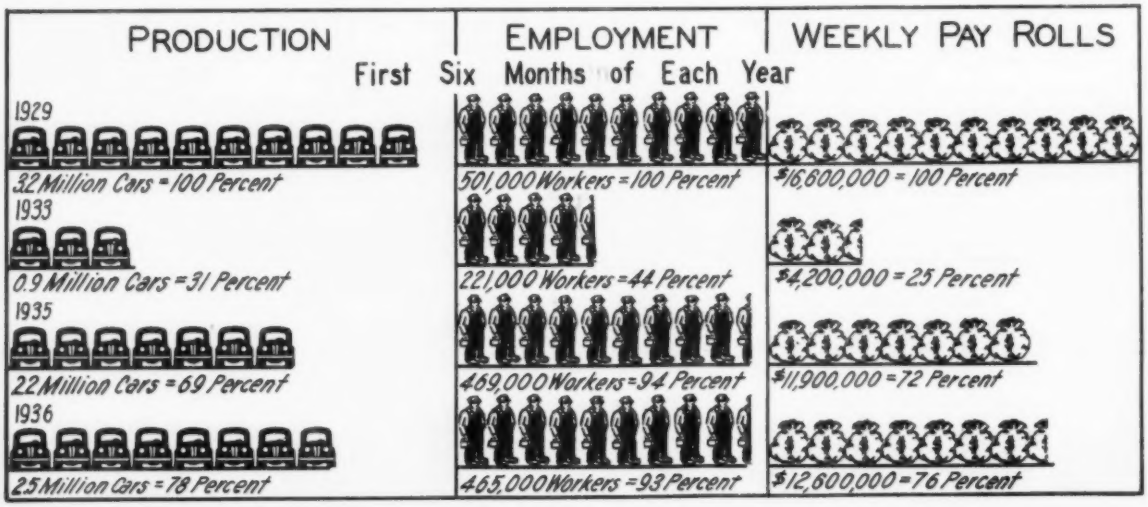
STEEL

Total output of steel ingots for the first half of 1936 was about one-third greater than for the same period of last year. Employment in blast furnaces, steel works, and rolling mills averaged about 9 percent greater than in 1935. The total weekly wage income to workers employed in these mills advanced about 26 percent.


PRODUCTION
EMPLOYMENT
WEEKLY PAY ROLLS
First Six Months of Each Year
1929
29.0 Million Tons of Ingots = 100 Percent
419,000 Workers = 100 Percent
$14,400,000 = 100 Percent
1933
8.9 Million Tons of Ingots = 31 Percent
246,000 Workers = 59 Percent
$3,800,000 = 26 Percent
1935
16.0 Million Tons of Ingots = 55 Percent
354,000 Workers = 84 Percent
$8,700,000 = 60 Percent
1936
21.3 Million Tons of Ingots = 73 Percent
387,000 Workers = 92 Percent
$11,000,000 = 76 Percent

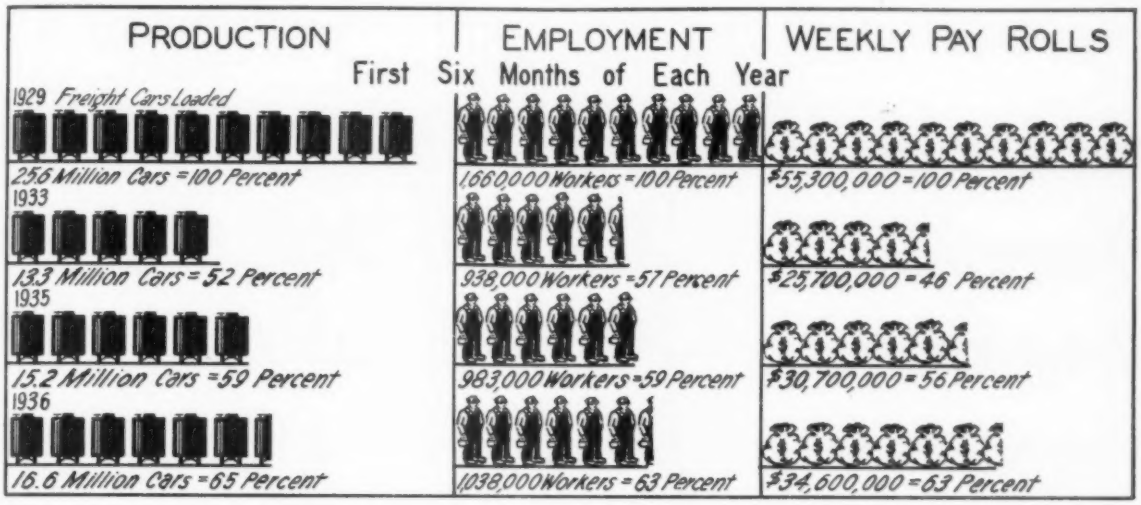
AUTOMOBILES

Production of automobiles during the first 6 months of this year advanced 14 percent, as compared with the same period of 1935. About three times as many passenger cars and trucks were produced in 1936 as in 1933. Employment, averaged over the 6 months, declined slightly from last year's average, but wage disbursements rose about 6 percent.



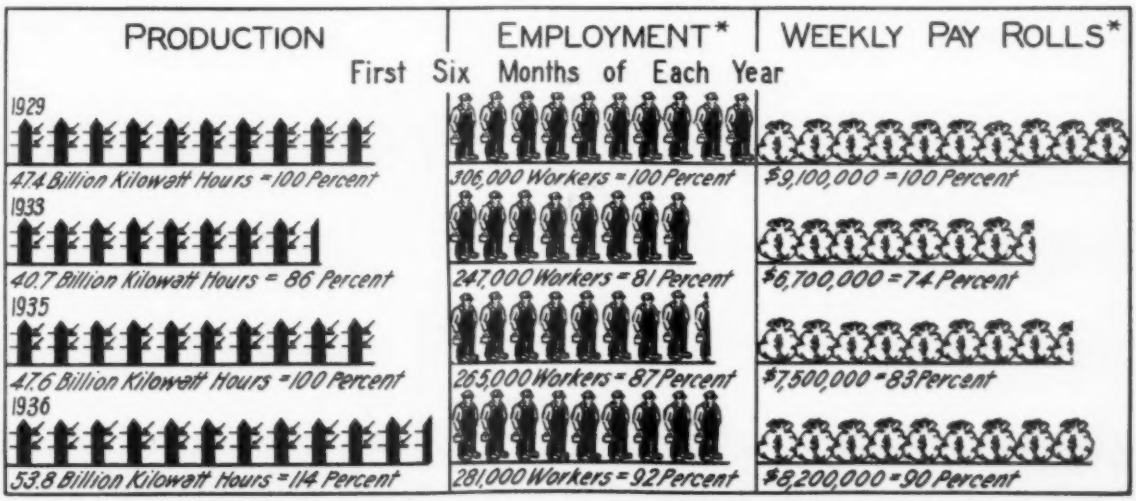
CLASS I RAILROADS

Freight car loadings by Class I railroads for the first half of 1936 totaled 16.6 million cars. This was a gain of 9 percent over the number of cars loaded last year and of 25 percent over the first 6 months of 1933. Railroad employment advanced 6 percent, and pay rolls 13 percent above their averages for the first half of 1935.



ELECTRIC POWER

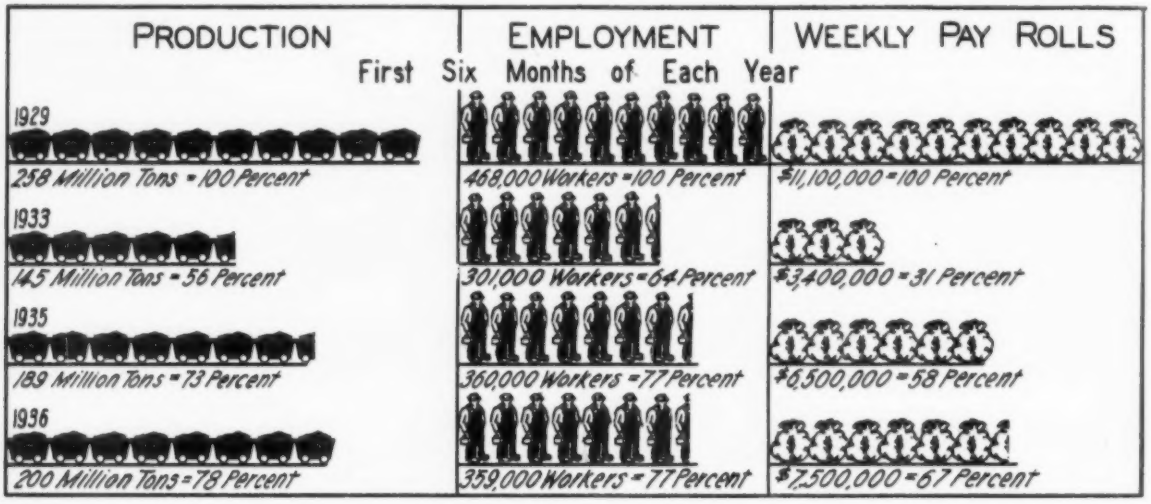
Electric light and power output was 14 percent higher for the first 6 months of this year, compared with the first half of last year. It was more than 32 percent higher than the low point reached in 1933. Averaged over the 6 months, employment* in 1936 advanced 6 percent and weekly pay rolls* 9 percent, as compared with 1935.


PRODUCTION
EMPLOYMENT*
WEEKLY PAY ROLLS*
First Six Months of Each Year
1929
47.4 Billion Kilowatt Hours = 100 Percent
306,000 Workers = 100 Percent
$9,100,000 = 100 Percent
1933
40.7 Billion Kilowatt Hours = 86 Percent
247,000 Workers = 81 Percent
$6,700,000 = 74 Percent
1935
47.6 Billion Kilowatt Hours = 100 Percent
265,000 Workers = 87 Percent
$7,500,000 = 83 Percent
1936
53.8 Billion Kilowatt Hours = 114 Percent
281,000 Workers = 92 Percent
$8,200,000 = 90 Percent

* Employment and pay rolls include power and light and manufactured gas.

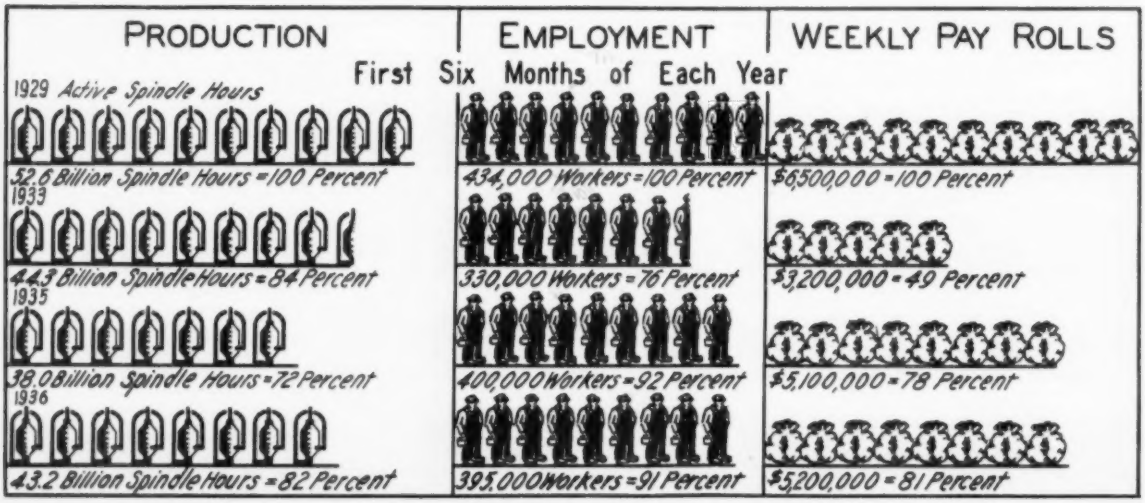
BITUMINOUS COAL

Production of bituminous coal during the first half of 1936 was 6 percent higher than last year and 38 percent higher than the 6-month total for 1933. No marked change occurred in the number of bituminous coal miners employed in 1936, compared with the first half of 1935. Weekly pay rolls, however, advanced about 15 percent.



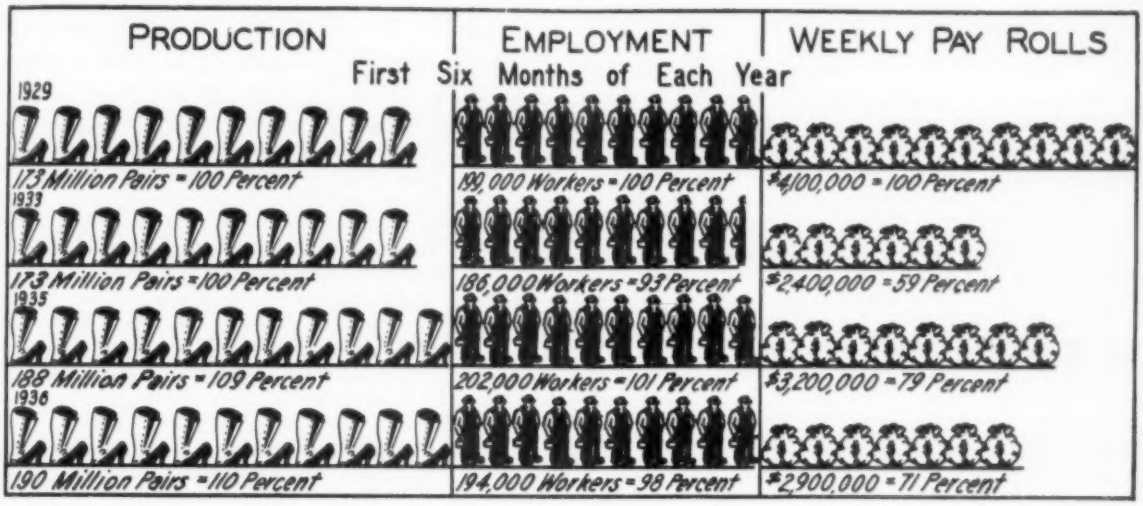
COTTON TEXTILES

Activity in cotton mills was about 14 percent greater during the first half of this year than in the corresponding period of last year. Employment for the first 6 months of 1936 was slightly lower than in 1935. Weekly pay rolls, averaged over the 6 months, were about 4 percent higher than in the first half of last year.


PRODUCTION
EMPLOYMENT
WEEKLY PAY ROLLS
First Six Months of Each Year
1929 Active Spindle Hours
52.6 Billion Spindle Hours = 100 Percent
434,000 Workers = 100 Percent
$6,500,000 = 100 Percent
1933
44.3 Billion Spindle Hours = 84 Percent
330,000 Workers = 76 Percent
$3,200,000 = 49 Percent
1935
38.0 Billion Spindle Hours = 72 Percent
400,000 Workers = 92 Percent
$5,100,000 = 78 Percent
1936
43.2 Billion Spindle Hours = 82 Percent
395,000 Workers = 91 Percent
$5,200,000 = 81 Percent

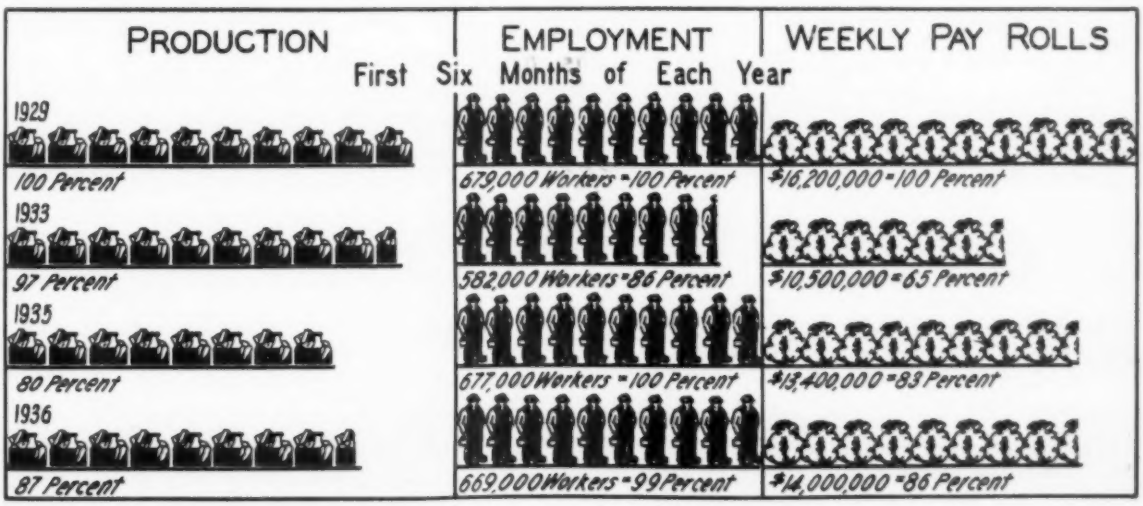
BOOTS AND SHOES

Total production of boots and shoes for the first 6 months of this year was slightly higher than for the corresponding period of 1935. Slightly fewer wage earners were employed, on the average, in the first half of 1936 than in the same period of 1935. Weekly wage payments, averaged over the 6 months, were about 9 percent smaller than in 1935.



FOOD PRODUCTS

The quantity of foodstuffs produced during the first half of 1936 was about 9 percent larger than in the corresponding period of 1935. Employment remained practically unchanged from a year ago. Weekly pay rolls were 4 percent higher than in 1935, and more than 30 percent higher than in the first 6 months of 1933.



Business Profits and Losses for First Six Months of 1936

The aggregate net profits of 380 industrial and mercantile concerns and 56 public utilities are estimated by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York at $763,400,000 for the first 6 months of 1936. They were 51 percent higher than for the same period in 1935, 69 percent higher than in 1934, but about 15 percent smaller than in 1930.

Building supply, clothing and textile, machinery and tools, and steel companies included in the sample reported profits more than twice as large as in the first half of last year. Aggregate net profits of 13 automobile companies were nearly 81 percent larger than in the first half of 1935. The total profits of 39 automobile parts and tire manufacturers advanced 28 percent. Twenty-three oil companies reported a net profit increase of 65 percent, as compared with the first 6 months of last year.

The 62 telephone companies showed combined profits 18 percent larger than in the first 6 months of 1935. The deficit of Class I railroads during the first half of this year was only about one-third as large as for the first half of last year.

NET PROFITS and LOSSES*

CORPORATION GROUPS	NUMBER OF COMPANIES	First 6 months of --			
		1930	1934	1935	1936
Total**	436	$894,300,000	$451,100,000	$505,100,000	$763,400,000
Automobiles	13	119,200,000	69,400,000	98,300,000	177,500,000
Automobile parts and tires	39	35,900,000	24,200,000	37,100,000	47,600,000
Building supplies	12	12,100,000	2,400,000	4,000,000	8,300,000
Chemicals and drugs	22	75,800,000	51,700,000	50,800,000	77,200,000
Clothing and textiles	20	400,000	2,700,000	1,700,000	4,600,000
Electrical equipment	12	40,400,000	12,000,000	21,300,000	29,200,000
Food products	41	104,400,000	67,500,000	54,300,000	70,000,000
Household equipment	17	23,400,000	16,100,000	15,700,000	19,200,000
Leather and shoes	6	1,100,000	2,200,000	2,000,000	2,900,000
Machinery and tools	26	21,500,000	3,900,000	6,800,000	15,500,000
Metals and mining	28	27,700,000	26,200,000	26,500,000	39,300,000
Office equipment	6	10,900,000	7,100,000	7,400,000	8,800,000
Oil	23	61,000,000	24,100,000	31,900,000	52,800,000
Paper and paper products	9	4,200,000	1,800,000	1,800,000	2,300,000
Printing and publishing	8	18,000,000	5,400,000	6,400,000	7,600,000
Public utilities	56	135,400,000	91,800,000	91,100,000	102,600,000
Railroads, Class I	144	***	*23,200,000*	*61,500,000*	*23,700,000*
Railroad equipment	11	28,600,000	*100,000*	----	6,300,000
Steel	22	123,700,000	14,100,000	18,300,000	47,300,000
Stores	8	4,400,000	9,000,000	7,600,000	10,100,000
Telephone companies	62	***	97,500,000	94,200,000	111,500,000
Tobacco	7	4,100,000	1,600,000	1,200,000	1,200,000
Miscellaneous	50	42,100,000	18,000,000	20,900,000	33,100,000

** Losses in italic type.* **** Not available.*

*** Exclusive of Class I railroads and telephone companies, for which groups 1930 data are not available.*

THE 1935 NATIONAL INCOME IN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. WHAT IS NATIONAL INCOME?

The crops and the cattle raised on the farms, the houses and roads constructed, the factories equipped with machinery to produce food, clothing, furniture, and other consumers' goods, the services and accommodations rendered by hotels and restaurants, and the entertainment supplied by theaters, movies, and over the radio -- these and thousands of other goods produced and services performed to satisfy the country's needs constitute our *real* national income. Workers, farmers, independent businessmen, and professional people, owners of property, etc., participating in the production of these goods and services are compensated for their work in terms of dollars and cents. The total amount of money paid out to them during any one year in wages and salaries, rents, interest, profits, and dividends represents approximately the value of the income produced and is often referred to as the national income.

2. HOW LARGE WAS THE NATIONAL INCOME IN 1935?

The total national income paid out to individuals for goods produced and services rendered in 1935 is estimated by the Department of Commerce at 53.6 billion dollars. This is an increase of 3.4 billion dollars, or nearly 7 percent, over 1934. It represents a gain of 8.7 billion dollars, or 19 percent, over 1933. The national income in 1935 was about 25 billion dollars smaller than in 1929, when it aggregated 78½ billion dollars.

3. WHAT HAPPENED TO WAGES AND SALARIES, INTEREST, RENTS, AND DIVIDENDS IN 1935?

More than two-thirds of the total national income (36.1 billion dollars) was paid out in wages and salaries. Independent businessmen, farmers, and professional groups obtained 8.7 billion dollars, or 16 percent of the total. Receipts by bondholders, mortgage owners, and others in the form of interest payments aggregated 4.4 billion dollars or slightly more than 8 percent. Stockholders received as dividends 2.8 billion dollars, or 5 percent of the total, and real property owners received in rents approximately 1.5 billion dollars, or slightly less than 3 percent of the total national income paid out last year.

Compared with 1934, income payments in the form of wages and salaries advanced 7 percent. The income received by independent businessmen, farmers, and professional people rose 8 percent; dividends increased 11 percent, and rents 10 percent. Interest payments declined about 3 percent.

Total wage and salary incomes and the income of independent businessmen, farmers, and professional groups were 30 percent less in 1935 than in 1929. Dividends were 52 percent smaller than in 1929, but interest payments were only 13 percent smaller. Income paid out in the form of rents in 1935 was 55 percent below its 1929 level.

4. HOW WAS THE NATIONAL INCOME DISTRIBUTED IN 1935?

All the 12 major industrial groups shown in the accompanying table paid out more in 1935 than in the preceding year. The greatest advance (nearly 25 percent) occurred in construction operations. Gains of 10 percent or more were recorded in agriculture, mining, manufacturing, and communication. The smallest increase over the year interval, amounting

to less than 1 percent, was registered in the electric light and power and gas group.

Over the 2-year period, 1933-35, income disbursements in construction, mining, and manufacturing advanced more than one-third. No change occurred in the electric light and power, and gas group. Finance registered an increase of about 9 percent. The remaining major industrial groups recorded gains of more than 10 percent.

For every $1,000 of national income distributed by each of the major industrial groups in 1929, there was paid out in 1935--$600 by agriculture, $520 by mining, $837 by electric light and power and gas, $634 by manufacturing, $341 by construction, $649 by transportation, $846 by communication, $633 by trade, $561 by finance, $1,271 by government, $713 by service, and $660 by the miscellaneous group.

NATIONAL INCOME PAID OUT

INDUSTRIAL DIVISION	1929	1932	1933	1934	1935
	Millions of dollars				
Total	78,600	48,400	44,900	50,200	53,600
Agriculture	6,200	3,200	3,000	3,300	3,700
Mining	2,100	800	800	1,000	1,100
Electric light and power and gas	1,300	1,300	1,100	1,100	1,100
Manufacturing	18,000	8,500	8,500	10,300	11,400
Construction	3,300	900	800	900	1,100
Transportation	6,800	4,300	3,900	4,200	4,400
Communication	900	800	700	700	800
Trade	10,800	7,100	6,100	6,700	6,900
Finance	8,300	5,100	4,300	4,500	4,700
Government*	6,800	7,200	7,300	8,400	8,600
Service	9,300	6,100	5,500	6,100	6,600
Miscellaneous	4,800	3,100	2,900	3,000	3,200

* *Includes expenditures for work-relief wages aggregating 619 million dollars in 1933, 1,389 million dollars in 1934, and 1,319 million dollars in 1935.*

5. HOW DOES DISTRIBUTION OF THE TOTAL INCOME IN 1935 COMPARE WITH THAT IN 1929?

Wages and salaries in 1935 accounted for more than 67 cents of each dollar paid out during the year. In 1929 they accounted for 65½ cents of each dollar disbursed. Independent businessmen, farmers, and professional groups also received a proportionately larger share of each dollar distributed in 1935 than in 1929. Interest payments were also proportionately higher in 1935. Dividends and rental payments, however, accounted for a smaller share in 1935 than in 1929.

For every $1,000 of national income disbursed in 1935 -- $673 was paid in wages and salaries, $162 was paid to independent businessmen, farmers, and professional people, $53 was paid in dividends, $83 was paid in interest, and $29 was paid to receivers of rent.

In 1929, out of every $1,000 of national income paid out -- $655 was paid in wages and salaries, $159 was paid to independent businessmen, farmers, and professional people, $76 was paid in dividends, $67 was paid in interest, and $43 was paid to receivers of rent.

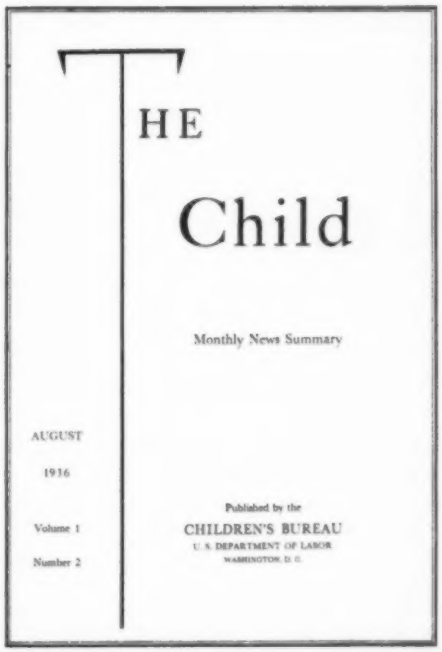
6. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ANNUAL EARNINGS OF FULL-TIME WAGE EARNERS IN 1935?

The annual per capita income of wage earners and salaried employees (other than employers and self-employed persons, such as farmers, merchants, professionals, etc.), calculated on a full-time basis, averaged $1,200 in 1935, as against $1,145 in 1934, $1,095 in 1933, and $1,465 in 1929. Full-time wage earners and salaried employees in 1935 earned about 5 percent more than in 1934, and about 10 percent more than in 1933. However, the average annual per capita income of the workers who had full-time employment in 1935 was still about 18 percent lower than in 1929.

THE CHILD – A NEW SERVICE OF THE CHILDREN'S BUREAU

The purpose of THE CHILD, the new monthly publication of the Children's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor, is outlined by Frances Perkins, the Secretary of Labor, in her foreword to the first issue for July 1936:

> "It is the purpose of this publication, the successor of the Child-Welfare News Summary formerly issued in mimeographed form, to provide a regular means of communication between the Children's Bureau and those who in their own States and communities are striving to establish a more adequate basis for child life. To the extent to which truly cooperative and democratic methods of achieving a common objective in terms adapted to individual differences can be developed in this country, the purpose of the founders of America will be realized. The health and welfare of the children have the first claim for service in such cooperative undertakings."



THE CHILD is designed to meet the need for dependable analysis and information on current activities in the field of child welfare, child labor, child health, and juvenile delinquency in foreign countries, as well as in the United States. In addition to general articles and news notes in these various fields, THE CHILD carries information of current research on problems affecting children and reviews of recent books and other published material in these fields. A special supplement, issued several times a year, will contain the information on social statistics which formerly appeared in the Social-Statistics Bulletin of the Children's Bureau.

The scope of THE CHILD, which runs from 20 to 32 pages an issue, is intended to make it of maximum usefulness in the broad field of social security. Some of the outstanding articles which have appeared cover such important topics as -- The Social Security Program for Children, and Maternal and Child Health Services.

CORRECTION

The chart of the New Hampshire Bureau of Labor published on page 9 of the July 1936 issue omitted the Minimum-Wage Division. This important division should have been shown with the other divisions of the Bureau.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAY ROLLS IN JULY 1936

The upward trend in employment in the combined manufacturing and nonmanufacturing industries which began in March of this year continued during the month of July. The gain of approximately 2,000 workers in these industries, though comparatively small, must be contrasted with the sharp reductions in employment which are usual at this time of the year. During the past 17 years increases in employment during July were recorded only in three instances; namely, in 1919, 1929, and 1933. Weekly pay rolls, however, followed the seasonal trend and declined approximately $2,200,000 from the preceding month.

Compared with July 1935, the combined manufacturing and nonmanufacturing industries showed an increase of nearly 1,000,000 workers over the year. Over the 12-month period the weekly wage income of the workers employed increased nearly $42,000,000.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

Factory employment advanced from 7,210,000 in June to 7,272,000 in July. This is an increase of 62,000. Weekly pay rolls decreased $1,785,000, from $160,090,000 in June to $158,300,000 in July.

Gains in employment from June to July were recorded in 52 of the 90 manufacturing industries. Pay rolls advanced in 40 industries. Blast furnaces, steel works, and rolling mills employed more workers in July than in any month since July 1930. Employment in foundries and machine shops was higher than in any month since August 1930, and in machine tools since September 1930.

The most pronounced gains in employment during the month were seasonal in character. Industries whose employment and pay rolls rose by 5 percent or more during the month were--

	PERCENT OF INCREASE	
	EMPLOYMENT	PAY ROLLS
Canning and preserving . . .	37.7	34.6
Beverages	10.5	20.7
Beet sugar	9.2	6.2
Cottonseed--oil, cake, meal .	8.7	15.6
Flour	7.4	12.8
Boots and shoes	6.7	21.5
Typewriters	6.4	22.1
Locomotives	5.9	8.2
Slaughtering and meat packing	5.9	6.7

Seasonal factors were also responsible for some of the sharp reductions in employment and pay rolls. Industries whose employment and pay rolls in July were 5 percent or more below the preceding month were: silverware and plated ware, millinery, agricultural implements, women's clothing, engines, tractors, and turbines, and electric and steam car building.

DURABLE-GOODS EMPLOYMENT

July 1936. The group as a whole provided employment to 11,500 fewer workers in July than in the preceding month. Employment advanced by 12,000 in iron and steel, 5,500 in lumber, 1,400 in stone, clay, and glass, and 900 in machinery manufacturing. But these gains were not sufficient to offset employment losses of 20,300 in transportation equipment, 8,200 in railroad repair shops, and 2,800 in nonferrous metals.

Compared with July 1935. All durable-goods groups of industries employed more workers this July than in July a year ago. The total gain in employment is estimated at 444,000 and was distributed as follows:

129,900 in machinery
107,400 in iron and steel
77,200 in transportation equipment
57,000 in lumber
26,100 in railroad repair shops
24,100 in nonferrous metals
22,400 in stone, clay, and glass

DURABLE-GOODS PAY ROLLS

July 1936. The weekly wage income of the workers employed in the durable-goods

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT AND PAY ROLLS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

JULY 1936, JUNE 1936, and JULY 1935

INDUSTRY	NUMBER OF WORKERS EMPLOYED			AMOUNT OF WEEKLY PAY ROLL		
	JULY 1936*	JUNE 1936‡	JULY 1935	JULY 1936*	JUNE 1936‡	JULY 1935
All industries	7,272,400	7,210,200	6,682,400	$158,301,000	$160,087,000	$131,808,000
Durable-goods groups:	*3,452,900*	*3,464,400*	*3,008,800*	*82,027,000*	*85,488,000*	*62,135,000*
Iron and steel	719,900	707,900	612,500	18,691,000	19,357,000	12,970,000
Machinery	881,600	880,700	751,700	20,698,000	21,431,000	15,967,000
Transportation equipment	569,100	589,400	491,900	16,061,000	17,128,000	11,723,000
Railroad repair shops	284,000	292,200	257,900	7,867,000	8,450,000	6,537,000
Nonferrous metals	250,700	253,500	226,600	5,394,000	5,577,000	4,390,000
Lumber	533,600	528,100	476,600	8,984,000	9,150,000	7,094,000
Stone, clay, and glass	214,000	212,600	191,600	4,332,000	4,395,000	3,454,000
Nondurable-goods groups:	*3,819,500*	*3,745,800*	*3,673,600*	*76,274,000*	*74,599,000*	*69,673,000*
Textiles	1,521,900	1,518,600	1,430,600	24,169,000	23,979,000	21,666,000
Leather	281,100	266,600	282,400	5,344,000	4,660,000	5,414,000
Foods	719,700	671,000	706,600	15,778,000	14,600,000	14,767,000
Tobacco	78,900	78,700	79,700	1,095,000	1,075,000	1,059,000
Paper and printing	519,900	522,100	507,200	13,037,000	13,453,000	12,100,000
Chemicals	368,600	360,800	355,700	8,631,000	8,537,000	7,934,000
Rubber	113,500	112,400	105,200	2,670,000	2,740,000	2,126,000
Unclassified	215,900	215,600	206,200	5,540,000	5,555,000	4,607,000

* *Preliminary* ‡ *Revised*

groups of industries was $3,461,000 smaller in July than in the previous month. All groups reported smaller pay rolls in July. The reductions ranged in amounts from $63,000 in stone, clay, and glass to $1,067,000 in transportation equipment.

Compared with July 1935. Over the 12-month period, July 1935 to July 1936, weekly pay rolls in the durable-goods industries rose approximately $19,890,000. All groups of durable-goods industries shared in the pay-roll advances this July, as compared with July 1935. The increases in the weekly wage incomes of the workers employed were: $5,720,000 in iron and steel, $4,730,000 in machinery manufacturing, $4,340,000 in transportation equipment, $1,890,000 in lumber, $1,330,000 in railroad repair shops, $1,005,000 in nonferrous metals, and $880,000 in stone, clay, and glass.

NONDURABLE-GOODS EMPLOYMENT

July 1936. For all the nondurable-goods groups combined, employment in July rose by 73,700 from the preceding month. Paper and printing was the only group which employed fewer workers in July than in June. Employment in this group declined by 2,200. In the remaining nondurable-goods groups of industries employment advanced. The gains ranged from 200 in tobacco manufactures to 48,700 in foodstuffs.

Compared with July 1935. Nearly 146,000 more workers had employment in the nondurable-goods industries this July, as compared with

July a year ago. Over the 12-month period employment declined slightly in leather and tobacco manufactures. Increases occurred in textiles (91,300), foodstuffs (13,100), chemicals (12,900), paper and printing (12,700), rubber (8,300), and miscellaneous industries (9,700).

NONDURABLE-GOODS PAY ROLLS

Weekly pay rolls in the nondurable-goods industries advanced by $1,675,000 in July. The weekly wage income of the workers employed rose by $1,188,000 in foodstuffs, $684,000 in leather, $190,000 in textiles, $94,000 in chemicals, and $20,000 in tobacco. These combined gains were slightly reduced by pay-roll losses of $416,000 in paper and printing, $70,000 in rubber, and $15,000 in miscellaneous industries.

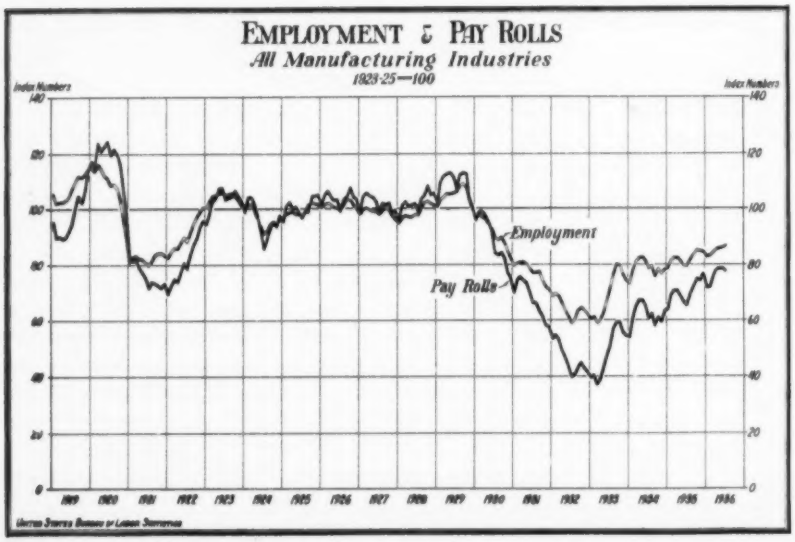
Compared with July 1935. Over the 12-month period, July 1935 to July 1936, the weekly pay rolls of the workers employed in the nondurable-goods industries increased by slightly more than $6,600,000. The gains were $2,503,000 in textiles, $1,021,000 in foodstuffs, $937,000 in paper and printing, $697,000 in chemicals, $544,000 in rubber, $36,000 in tobacco, and $983,000 in miscellaneous groups. Weekly pay rolls declined $70,000 in leather over the year interval.

TREND OF EMPLOYMENT AND PAY ROLLS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

The Bureau of Labor Statistics preliminary index of factory employment was 86.8 in July, as against 86 in June and 79.7 in July a year ago. In other words, for every 1,000 workers employed on the average during 1923-25, 868 persons had jobs in July, 860 in June 1936, and 797 in July 1935.

Employment in the durable-goods group of industries in July declined slightly, as compared with the preceding month. It was, however, about 15 percent higher than in July of last year. In the nondurable-goods industries employment in July was nearly 2 percent higher than in June, and about 4 percent higher than in July a year ago.

Factory pay rolls declined slightly in July. The Bureau of Labor Statistics pay-roll index was 77.8 in July, 78.7 in June, and 64.8 in July a year ago. This means that for every $1,000 disbursed in wages in 1923-25, manufacturing industries paid out $77.80 in July 1936, $78.70 in the previous month, and $64.80 in July 1935.



In the durable-goods industries the July pay-roll index was about 4 percent lower than in the previous month. It was 32 percent higher than in July of last year. In the nondurable-goods industries the July pay-roll index was more than 2 percent higher than in June and 9 percent higher than in July a year ago.

HOURS OF WORK AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

No significant changes occurred over the month interval, June to July 1936, in the weekly hours of work and average hourly earnings of factory workers. Employment in manufacturing establishments averaged 36½ hours per week in July. This was a slight decline, as compared with the preceding month. Hourly earnings of factory hands averaged approximately 57 cents in July, as against slightly higher hourly earnings in June. The average weekly income of wage earners employed in manufacturing establishments in July was $22.40. This was a decline of about 25 cents from June.

The weekly working time of factory wage earners advanced, on the average, about 3 hours per week over the year interval, July 1935 to July 1936. This was an increase of about 9 percent. Over the same period hourly earnings remained practically unchanged. Average weekly earnings of workers employed in manufacturing establishments advanced approximately $2 per week. This was a gain of about 10 percent from July 1935 to July 1936.

In the five selected durable-goods industries the average weekly hours of work and hourly and weekly earnings in July 1936 were--

Weekly hours:
- 42.0 in brick manufacturing
- 41.5 in foundries and machine shops
- 40.5 in sawmills
- 39.0 in blast furnaces and rolling mills
- 38.5 in automobiles

Hourly earnings (in cents):
- 77.5 in automobiles
- 67.0 in blast furnaces and rolling mills
- 59.5 in foundries and machine shops
- 46.5 in sawmills
- 45.0 in brick manufacturing

Weekly earnings:
- $29.55 in automobiles
- 26.40 in blast furnaces and rolling mills
- 24.80 in foundries and machine shops
- 18.95 in brick manufacturing
- 18.70 in sawmills

Average weekly hours of work and average hourly and weekly earnings in the five selected nondurable-goods industries in July 1936 were--

Weekly hours:
- 42.5 in slaughtering and meat packing
- 40.0 in paper and pulp
- 37.5 in cotton-goods manufacturing
- 35.5 in petroleum refihing
- 35.5 in tires and inner tubes

Hourly earnings (in cents):
- 87.5 in tires and inner tubes
- 83.0 in petroleum refining
- 56.0 in slaughtering and meat packing
- 54.0 in paper and pulp
- 36.5 in cotton-goods manufacturing

Weekly earnings:
- $31.05 in tires and inner tubes
- 29.40 in petroleum refining
- 23.85 in slaughtering and meat packing
- 21.45 in paper and pulp
- 13.65 in cotton-goods manufacturing

All the 10 selected durable- and nondurable-goods industries averaged longer weekly hours of work this July than in July a year ago. The increases in the weekly hours of employment in these industries were estimated at approximately 1 hour in petroleum refining, 2 hours in slaughtering and meat packing, 3 hours in paper and pulp, 4 hours in sawmills, 5 hours in foundries and machine shops and cotton-goods manufacturing, 5½ hours in automobiles, 6 hours in tires and inner tubes, 7 hours in brick manufacturing, and slightly more than 8½ hours in blast furnaces, steel works, and rolling mills.

Over the 12-month period, July 1935 to July 1936, average hourly earnings declined slightly in brick manufacturing, slaughtering and meat packing, and cotton-goods manufacturing. They advanced slightly in foundries and paper and pulp manufacturing. Larger increases in hourly earnings over the year interval were registered in blast furnaces, sawmills, petroleum refining, automobiles, and tires and inner tubes.

The average weekly wage incomes of workers employed in all the 10 selected durable- and nondurable-goods industries were higher this July than in July a year ago. The gains over the year interval were estimated at about 70 cents in slaughtering and meat packing, $1.35 in cotton-goods manufacturing, $1.45 in petroleum refining, $1.70 in paper and pulp, $2.15 in sawmills, $3.00 in brick manufacturing and foundries and machine shops, $4.35 in automobiles, $5.90 in rubber tires and inner tubes, and $6.20 in blast furnaces, steel works, and rolling mills.

EMPLOYMENT, PAY ROLLS, WAGES, AND HOURS IN SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

INDUSTRY	JULY 1936*	INCREASE OR DECREASE: JUNE 1936 TO JULY 1936	INCREASE OR DECREASE: JULY 1935 TO JULY 1936
RETAIL TRADE		*Percent*	*Percent*
Employment	3,259,600	- 2.7	+ 4.9
Weekly pay roll	$59,780,000	- 1.9	+ 7.7
Weekly hours	43.5	- 0.3	+ 2.9
Hourly earnings	$0.53	+ 1.2	+ 0.1
Weekly earnings	$21.45	+ 0.8	+ 2.6
WHOLESALE TRADE			
Employment	1,370,700	+ 1.0	+ 4.0
Weekly pay roll	$39,942,000	+ 0.9	+ 6.8
Weekly hours	43.0	- 0.5	+ 2.1
Hourly earnings	$0.67	+ 0.4	- 0.4
Weekly earnings	$28.75	- 0.1	+ 2.7
STEAM RAILROADS			
Employment	1,073,000	+ 0.6	+ 6.5
Weekly pay roll	$34,200,000	+ 1.1	+ 9.7
Weekly earnings	$31.90	+ 1.1	+ 3.6
BITUMINOUS COAL			
Employment	346,300	- 0.3	+ 7.8
Weekly pay roll	$6,920,000	+ 1.8	+ 74.4
Weekly hours	26.5	+ 3.7	+ 48.7
Hourly earnings	$0.80	- 1.2	+ 7.7
Weekly earnings	$21.00	+ 2.2	+ 61.8
TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH			
Employment	391,800	+ 1.4	+ 4.0
Weekly pay roll	$11,554,000	+ 3.2	+ 5.6
Weekly hours	39.5	+ 3.5	+ 2.1
Hourly earnings	$0.77	- 1.4	- 0.1
Weekly earnings	$29.20	+ 1.8	+ 1.5

INDUSTRY	JULY 1936*	INCREASE OR DECREASE: JUNE 1936 TO JULY 1936	INCREASE OR DECREASE: JULY 1935 TO JULY 1936
HOTELS		*Percent*	*Percent*
Employment	242,400	- 0.7	+ 3.7
Weekly pay roll	$3,262,000	- 0.9	+ 6.3
Weekly hours	48.5	+ 0.4	+ 0.8
Hourly earnings	$0.28	- 0.7	+ 2.0
Weekly earnings	$13.95	- 0.1	+ 2.6
POWER and LIGHT			
Employment	293,400	+ 1.4	+ 8.1
Weekly pay roll	$8,536,000	+ 1.9	+ 10.2
Weekly hours	40.5	- 0.1	+ 3.5
Hourly earnings	$0.79	+ 0.5	- 1.1
Weekly earnings	$31.74	+ 0.4	+ 1.9
ELECTRIC RAILROADS			
Employment	193,300	+ 1.0	+ 1.3
Weekly pay roll	$5,687,000	- 0.5	+ 4.9
Weekly earnings	$29.90	- 1.4	+ 3.5
LAUNDRIES			
Employment	211,000	+ 3.7	+ 7.2
Weekly pay roll	$3,477,000	+ 4.2	+ 11.4
Weekly hours	43.5	+ 1.8	+ 4.1
Hourly earnings	$0.37	- 1.3	+ 0.2
Weekly earnings	$16.25	+ 0.5	+ 3.9
DYEING & CLEANING			
Employment	50,500	- 2.3	+ 4.6
Weekly pay roll	$946,000	- 6.3	+ 5.3
Weekly hours	43.0	- 1.6	+ 3.1
Hourly earnings	$0.44	- 2.6	- 0.7
Weekly earnings	$18.60	- 4.2	+ 0.8

* *Preliminary*

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN JULY 1936

AGRICULTURE

Farm Income. Cash income from the sale of farm products in July was estimated by the Department of Agriculture at about $711,000,000, compared with $582,000,000 in June, and $451,000,000 in July 1935. The sharp gain in farm income in July was mainly due to the pronounced increase in the cash income from the sales of grains, chiefly wheat. Government rental and benefit payments in July on contracts entered into in 1935, amounted to $16,000,000, as against $44,000,000 in June 1936 and $19,000,000 in July a year ago.

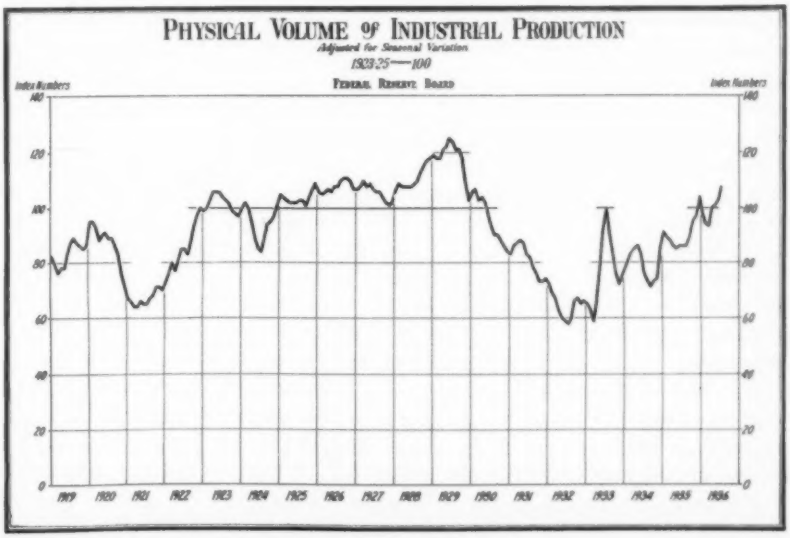
Part-time Farming. A recent report of the U. S. Bureau of the Census indicates that nearly one out of every three farm operators in the United States performed part-time work off their farms for pay or other income during 1934. One out of every six of these part-time farm operators worked on other farms, while the other five were engaged in nonagricultural pursuits. In New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut one out of every five farm operators worked more than 150 days each year away from his own farm.

INDUSTRY AND TRADE

Industrial production in July continued the advance which began in April of this year. The Federal Reserve Board's seasonally adjusted index for measuring the volume of industrial production rose to 108 in July, as against 103 in the preceding month, 101 in May, 100 in April, and 86 in July a year ago. It was 100 for the 3-year period 1923-25.

Production of iron and steel continued at a high volume despite the normal tendency for output of this industry to decline in July. The output of nondurable-goods industries was larger due chiefly to a sharp rise in activity at cotton mills and greater than seasonal increases in the production of boots and shoes, silk, and flour. Bituminous and anthracite coal output in July was considerably higher and production of crude petroleum remained at about the same level as in June.

Retail trade was sustained at a higher level in July than is customary for that month. Department store sales increased, although normally considerable declines are registered in the midsummer. Sales by mail-order and variety stores declined by less than the usual seasonal amount.



BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL BAROMETERS

Automobiles. Slightly fewer passenger cars and trucks were assembled in July than in the previous month. Total production of automobiles was estimated at 441,000 units in July, as against 453,000 in the previous month, and 332,000 in July a year ago.

Bituminous Coal. About 32,100,000 tons of bituminous coal were mined during July. This was an increase of 2,800,000 tons over the preceding month and of almost 9,800,000 tons over July 1935.

Building Permits. The value of building construction for which permits were issued in 1,469 cities with a population of 2,500 or more was estimated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics at $156,300,000 in July, compared with $159,200,000 in June. The value of building construction permits issued this July was 89 percent higher than in July of last year.

Electric Power. Output of electric power in July averaged approximately 2,050 million kilowatt hours per week -- 57 million kilowatt hours per week more than in June, and about 275 million kilowatt hours per week more than in July 1935.

Railroad Freight Car Loadings. Class I railroads loaded on the average approximately 714,600 cars per week during July. This compares with 696,800 cars per week in the preceding month and 564,900 cars per week in July a year ago.

Retail Trade. The total sales of two large mail order houses declined from $76,700,000 in June to $65,300,000 in July. In July 1935 their sales aggregated approximately $50,000,000.

Steel. Production of steel ingots in July totaled 3,923,000 tons -- about 62,000 tons less than in the previous month, but 1,655,000 tons more than in July of last year.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT AND RELIEF IN JULY 1936

The Works Program. Employment on projects financed by The Works Program declined slightly in July. Approximately 2,864,000 persons were at work in July, as against slightly more than 3,000,000 in the previous month. Pay rolls in July totaled $145,500,000, as compared with $150,900,000 in June.

About 912,000 workers were provided jobs on highway, road, and street projects. Their total wage income amounted to over $42,750,000. Sewing, canning, and gardening projects employed 290,000 persons, with an aggregate pay roll of $13,450,000. Professional, technical, and clerical work gave employment to nearly 260,000 persons at a total wage of $18,800,000. About 232,000 persons received $14,100,000 for work on projects providing for the construction or development of recreational facilities.

Public Works. Over 347,000 persons were employed in July at the site of construction projects financed by the P.W.A. This was a decline of about 2,200 from the previous month. Total pay rolls, however, rose slightly from $25,840,000 in June to $25,970,000 in July.

Emergency Conservation Work. Slightly more than 404,000 enrolled workers, camp supervisors and instructors were employed in the Civilian Conservation Camps during July, as against 383,000 in June. Wage disbursements totaled about $18,400,000 in July, compared with $18,000,000 in June.

Emergency Relief. Preliminary reports received by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration from 99 cities indicate that slightly more than 746,000 families and single persons received $19,930,000 in emergency relief from public funds in July. In the previous month the same cities reported 783,000 families and single persons receiving about $21,400,000.

WHAT HAPPENED TO PRICES IN JULY 1936

Wholesale Prices. The general level of wholesale commodity prices, averaged for the entire country, was slightly higher in July than in the previous month and in July a year ago. With 1926 as a base or 100, the Bureau of Labor Statistics index of wholesale prices averaged 80.5 in July 1936, 79.2 in June 1936, and 79.4 in July 1935. In other words, commodities which could be bought at wholesale in 1926 for $100 cost $80.50 in July, $79.20 in the preceding month, and $79.40 in July of last year.

INDEX OF WHOLESALE PRICES

ITEM	1926	JULY 1936	JULY 1935	INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) JULY 1935 TO JULY 1936
	Index	*Index*	*Index*	*Percent*
All commodities	100	80.5	79.4	+ 1.4
Farm products	100	81.3	77.1	+ 5.4
Raw materials	100	79.8	75.8	+ 5.3
Semimanufactured articles . . .	100	75.2	72.8	+ 3.3
Finished products	100	81.6	82.0	- 0.5

Retail Prices. Average retail food prices advanced slightly from June to July of this year. They were about 4.6 percent higher than in July of last year. The index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which includes retail prices of 84 food products sold in 51 cities in the United States, averaged 77.2 in July, as against 76.5 in the previous month, 73.8 in July 1935, and 100 in 1926. This means that for every dollar's worth of foodstuffs purchased in the country's retail markets in 1926, consumers paid on the average 77.2 cents in July, 76.5 cents in June, and 73.8 cents in July 1935.

AVERAGE RETAIL FOOD PRICES FOR THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE

ITEM	RETAIL PRICE		INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) JULY 1935 TO JULY 1936	
	JULY 1936	JULY 1935		
	Cents	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Percent*
Bread, pound	8.1	8.3	- 0.2	- 2.4
Butter, pound	40.0	30.9	+ 9.1	+ 29.4
Milk, quart	11.8	11.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.9
Eggs, dozen	35.3	35.9	- 0.6	- 1.7
Potatoes, pound . . .	4.1	2.1	+ 2.0	+ 95.2
Lard, pound	15.6	19.4	- 3.8	- 19.6
Pork chops, pound . .	34.7	37.8	- 3.1	- 8.2
Round steak, pound . .	34.0	37.3	- 3.3	- 8.8
Sugar, pound	5.7	5.8	- 0.1	- 1.7
Coffee, pound	23.9	25.2	- 1.3	- 5.2

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